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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reniero et al.
Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/01798
Filed: 2 March 2000
Title: LACTOBACILLUS STRAINS CAPABLE OF PREVENTING DIARRHOEA
CAUSED BY PATHOGENIC BACTERIA AND ROTAVIRUSES
Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Docket No.: 112843-032

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 3-4 and 7-13 as follows:

3. (Once Amended) The Lactobacillus strain according to claim 1 which is capable of growing in the presence of up to 0.4 % bile salts.

4. (Once Amended) The Lactobacillus strain according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

7. (Once Amended) A method for preparing an ingestable support material comprising the step of using a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

8. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the Lactobacillus strain is contained in the ingestable support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

9. (Once Amended) A method for preparing an ingestable support comprising the step of using a supernatant of a culture of a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

10. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ingestable support material is a food composition selected from milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks,